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Presentation of Leerorkest at Laura Wernet Paskel School



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Inflation, expenses rise sharply as priorities: AP-NORC poll



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High gas prices are shown in Los Angeles, June 16, 2022.

Associated Press

By HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concerns about inflation and personal finances have surged while COVID has evaporated as a top issue

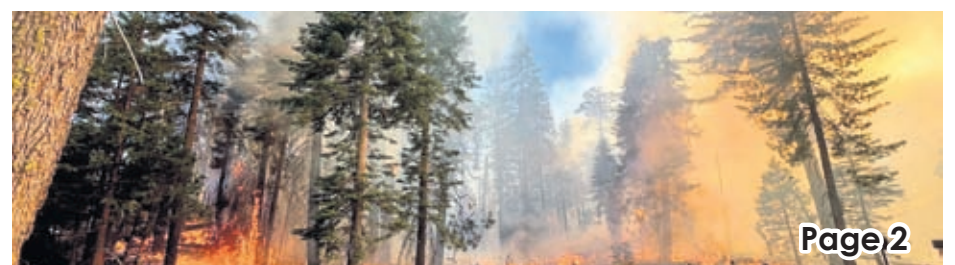
for Americans, a new poll shows, marking an upheaval in priorities just months before critical midterm elections.

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After 10 years, Aruba wins medals in taekwondo competition Panamericano Cadet



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In this image provided by the National Park Service, a firefighter walks near the Mariposa Grove as the Washburn Fire burns in Yosemite National Park, Calif., Thursday, July 7, 2022.

Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:
TICO KOCK
STEEL DRUM
4 - 6pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
CARLOS ORLATE
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
7 - 9pm

SATURDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

PREMIUM
BRANDS

KARAOKE
HAPPY HOUR
9:00 - 11:00pm

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Inflation, expenses rise sharply as priorities: AP-NORC poll

Continued from Front

Forty percent of U.S. adults specifically name inflation in an open-ended question as one of up to five priorities for the government to work on in the next year, according to a June poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's a sharp rise from 14% in December and less than 1% the year prior. In all, 77% mention the economy in any way, up from 68% in December. But just 10% specifically mention jobs or unemployment, as U.S. employers continue to hire despite high inflation and weak economic growth.

Now, too, Americans increasingly call their personal finances a major issue: 44% mention it, up from 24% in December and 12% the year before. That includes more mentioning gas or energy prices (33% now vs. 10% in December) and food costs (9% vs. less than 1%).

Those shifts may be advantageous to Republicans as they campaign to win control of Congress in this year's midterms; the economy has increasingly been a sore subject for President Joe Biden. Still, the economy isn't the only issue get-



A woman supporting abortion-rights holds a sign outside the South Carolina Statehouse on July 7, 2022, in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

ting more attention this year. Many also prioritize issues that are core to Biden and Democrats' agenda, including abortion, women's rights and gun policy, which could help Democrats as they try to pad — or at least protect — their razor-thin majority.

In a troubling sign for both parties, the poll finds many Americans say they think neither side of the aisle is better at focusing on the issues important to them or getting things done.

Sara Rodriguez said she's concerned about the impact of rising prices of goods, gas and oil on her household's finances, especially because her income isn't keeping up.

"We've had a savings built

up and we're noticing that it's definitely going down fast because we don't make enough money to cover how much the cost of everything has risen," the 43-year-old quality control coordinator in Bristol, Connecticut, said.

Rodriguez and her husband and son have had to get to their workplaces and run errands using one car over the last couple of months because of her husband's broken-down truck.

"We just haven't had the money to get it back on the road," she said.

The rise in concerns about the economy is paired with a steep decline in the percentage naming COVID-19 as a top issue, even as new variants continue to

emerge: Now just 4% mention it, down from 37% in December 2021 and 53% in December 2020.

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to mention inflation or personal finances as top issues, but the sharp changes since December are bipartisan. Daniel Collier, a 39-year-old construction worker in Waynesville, Missouri, thinks lowering gas prices should be a priority.

"It's hurt me financially," he said. "I worry about being able to pay the rent, pay utilities."

He blames Biden for inflation and "poor" economic conditions, saying he thinks the president is "incompetent." The poll shows 69% of Americans disapprove of how Biden is handling the economy, including 93% of Republicans and 43% of Democrats. In May, facing an inflation rate at a 40-year high, most Americans said in an AP-NORC poll that they worried about the impact of higher than usual prices on their finances.

For 22-year-old Jakyra Green, rising prices have been prohibitive.

"It's become very hard to even pay for anything, like rent, gas, and none of our wages are going up," the college student in Goshen,

Indiana, said. "I just spend less or try to not go out the house anymore."

But Green identified other issues that concern her more. Abortion has long been on her mind as a priority, and it "feels real now" that the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. She also identified racism in the U.S. as an important problem. Mentions of abortion or women's rights increased sharply to 22% from just 8% in December following the Supreme Court's decision to strike down *Roe v. Wade*. The poll shows 12% of U.S. adults mention racial issues, similar to December 2021, but a notable decline from 24% in 2020.

"I have these two compounding identities being Black and a woman," Green said, adding that it's very concerning that Black women experience higher maternal mortality rates than white women. "It's just so overwhelming right now in America."

Mentions of gun issues also ticked up to 30% from 24% in December 2021 — both significantly higher compared with 5% in December 2020. The 2021 poll was conducted just after a deadly shooting at a Michigan high school. □

Wildfire grows near famed Yosemite grove of sequoia trees

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — The largest grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park was closed Friday as a wildfire burning through dense forest became the latest in recent years to threaten the world's largest trees.

A team was being sent to the Mariposa Grove to wrap some of the massive trunks in fire-resistant foil to protect them as the blaze burned out of control, said Nancy Phillippe, a Yosemite fire information spokesperson.

More than 500 mature sequoias were threatened but there were no reports of severe damage to any named trees, such as the 3,000-year-old Grizzly Giant.

The cause of the fire was under investigation and the rest of the park remained open as nearly 300 firefighters tried to control the flames with the help of two water-dropping helicopters and an air tanker dumping flame retardant, Phillippe said.

The giant sequoias, native only to the western slope of California's Sierra Nevada range, were once considered impervious to flames but have become increasingly vulnerable as wildfires fueled by a build-up of undergrowth from a century of fire suppression and drought exacerbated by climate change have become more intense and destructive.

Lightning-sparked wildfires

over the past two years have killed up to a fifth of all sequoias, which are the largest trees by volume.

There was no obvious natural spark for the fire that broke out Thursday next to the park's Washburn Trail, Phillippe said. Smoke was reported by visitors walking in the grove that reopened in 2018 after a \$40 million renovation that took three years.

The fire more than tripled overnight in size to 166 acres (67 hectares) by Friday, Phillippe said. Fire officials had previously estimated that 250 acres (101 hectares) burned but it was revised after a closer assessment.

The nearby village of Wawona, where about 600 to



In this image provided by the National Park Service, a firefighter walks near the Mariposa Grove as the Washburn Fire burns in Yosemite National Park, Calif., Thursday, July 7, 2022.

Associated Press

700 people were staying in a campground, cabins and an historic hotel, was under an evacuation advisory. A community meeting was planned and visitors

and residents were encouraged to be ready to leave. "Our priorities are certainly the giant sequoias and the community of Wawona," Phillippe said. □

Report finds 'unnecessary' force by agents at Rio Grande

By WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Border Patrol agents on horseback engaged in "unnecessary use of force" against non-threatening Haitian immigrants but didn't whip any with their reins "intentionally or otherwise," according to a federal investigation of chaotic scenes along the Texas-Mexico border last fall that sparked widespread condemnation.

In a 511-page report released Friday, Customs and Border Protection blamed a "lack of command control and communication" for mounted agents using their horses to forcibly block and move migrants during an influx of Haitians arriving last September at the U.S. border outside Del Rio, Texas.

"We're gonna learn from this incident and we'll find a way to do better," CBP Commissioner Chris Magnus said during a news conference announcing the report. "Not everyone's going to like all the findings but the investigation was comprehensive and fair." Video and photos of the incident made it appear agents were whipping Haitians, which caused outrage among advocacy groups and civil rights leaders. The Biden administration promised a full investigation after many in the president's own party objected that such tactics with racial overtones were the kinds of policies the U.S. was supposed to be moving away from after years of hardline immigra-



Mounted U.S. Border Patrol agents attempt to contain migrants as they cross the Rio Grande from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, into Del Rio, Texas, Sept. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

tion tactics under President Donald Trump.

A former police chief, Magnus took over the nation's largest law enforcement agency in December and is being watched closely for herding the ongoing investigation. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said in a statement Friday that "the organizational failures of policy, procedures, and training that the investigation identified were a disservice to the agents and the public they serve."

Last fall, Biden called images of what occurred "horrible" and "outrageous."

"I promise you, those people will pay," the president said then. "There is an investigation underway right now and there will be consequences."

Asked if the politically charged environment

marred the investigation, Magnus said "it was inevitable, certainly not surprising, that there was going to be a reaction to that from the community, from those in the media from elected officials, from different advocacy groups."

But he said he instructed investigators "that all of these things were to be put aside, to be disregarded."

"I was counting on them to do a fair, through, comprehensive investigation with no attention to this outside influence," Magnus said.

By September 19, 2021, around 15,000 Haitian migrants had crossed from Mexico into the United States and were concentrated in an encampment underneath the international bridge.

Magnus said the investigation began the day after the incident and included

testimony from more than 30 people, among them witnesses and journalists. Investigators said they were unable to locate Haitian migrants involved to get their accounts — but used statements and court documents that some provided as part of lawsuits they filed against U.S. authorities.

Magnus said four Border Patrol personnel have been recommended for disciplinary action for their conduct, though he declined to discuss exactly what each had done to warrant possible punishment, or elaborate on what sanctions they could face. That comes after prosecutors in April declined to pursue criminal charges, he said.

Disciplinary actions are separate from Friday's findings and won't be announced until later. All four CBP officials have been on ad-

ministrative duty since the investigation began, according to senior agency officials who briefed reporters before Friday's report was released.

Mark Morgan, a former acting CBP commissioner under Trump, dismissed the entire investigation as politically motivated since no Haitians were actually whipped.

"From the start, these agents have been smeared, lied about, and vilified by nearly everyone on the left," Morgan said in a statement.

Federal investigators said no migrant was struck with a whip, forced to return to Mexico or denied entry into the U.S. during the approximately 15 minutes that they were forcibly blocked and moved by mounted agents. One agent yelled inappropriate comments about a migrant's national origin including, "You use your women" while also narrowly missing crashing his horse into a child walking nearby while pursuing a migrant.

Agents acted with the permission of their supervisor, who was unable to get guidance from higher up the Border Patrol chain of command, the report said. Communication occurred on a radio channel that wasn't recorded, further complicating investigation into the incident.

The use of force drove migrants back into the Rio Grande, despite their having been well within U.S. territory and not presenting threats — which was counter to CBP's mission, the report found. □

Feds nudge airlines to let families sit together on planes

By The Associated Press

The Transportation Department on Friday urged airlines to make it easier for families to sit together on planes at no extra charge.

The department said in a notice to airlines that the carriers "should do everything that they can to ensure the ability of a young child" 13 or younger to sit next to an older family member. The agency said it will monitor airlines starting in November and might propose new regulations. The trade group Airlines for America said carriers "have always worked to accommodate customers who are traveling together, espe-

cially those traveling with children, and will continue to do so."

The Transportation Department said it has received more than 500 complaints in the last five years about families unable to sit together. However, that is only about 1% of all complaints against airlines and is dwarfed by gripes about refunds and flight problems.

In 2016, Congress prodded airlines to let kids sit next to a family member at no extra charge, but the Trump administration Transportation Department did not draft rules on the matter, and neither has the Biden administration.

The department said Friday that airlines could do several things to help relatives sit together including assigning adjacent seats at booking or setting aside areas for families.

Increasingly, airlines charge extra for desirable seats to boost revenue. The 2016 law does not require them to make seat assignments that would upgrade a passenger to a better cabin or seat if there is an extra charge for that seat. The department also issued a bill of rights for airline passengers with disabilities, a summary of existing laws that travelers can use as a reference. □

2 Iowa officers sue 2020 protesters, accuse them of assault

By MARGERY A. BECK

Associated Press

Two Iowa police officers are taking the unusual move of suing six people who participated in a 2020 protest in Des Moines after the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd, accusing them of assault.

All six people were arrested during the July 1, 2020, protest, and five already pleaded guilty to misdemeanor counts of assault on a police officer and/or interference with official acts. One of them, Indira Sheumaker, was later elected to the Des Moines City Council.

The lawsuit, first reported by Axios Des Moines, was filed by Peter Wilson and Jeffrey George as individuals and not as representatives of the Des Moines Police Department. They are seeking an unspecified amount for actual and punitive damages. It will likely be met with skepticism by the court, said Robert Bloom, a professor at Boston College Law School, who noted that the claims of assault and battery appear to be applying criminal complaints to a civil action.

Experts also note that Iowa is among several states that have adopted what's known as the "fireman's rule," which holds that firefighting and policing are



Protestors chant "Let them go" as Des Moines police vans arrive at the Polk County Jail after protestors were arrested outside the Capitol, in Des Moines, Iowa, on Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

Associated Press

inherently dangerous jobs and generally bars emergency responders from suing or collecting damages for injuries that occur in the course of their duties. The rule typically includes some exceptions — such as gross negligence of a property owner or if injury was caused by willful, wanton or intentional action.

The protest was among demonstrations against racism and police brutality that erupted worldwide following Floyd's killing. It began as a rally at the Iowa State Capitol to push for

the restored voting rights to felons and turned violent as police led away arrested protesters.

Des Moines protesters have said police escalated tensions and were heavy-handed in their handling of arrests.

The suit describes protesters' actions as "nothing short of domestic terrorism." No charges related to the protest were found against one of the lawsuit defendants in online court records. Only one person was sentenced to jail time — four days — while the

others received probation, fines or both.

One person named in the suit, Brad Penna of Des Moines, said he thinks it's intended to "intimidate, function as a scare tactic, and to retaliate" against protesters who fought back against what they saw as unjust police aggression. Penna was originally charged by police with assault on an officer, but that was dropped when he pleaded guilty to interference of officials acts and paid a \$250 fine. Penna was among five protesters

who later successfully sued the state after the Iowa State Patrol banned them from State Capitol grounds. The officers' lawsuit accuses Penna of pulling on Wilson's hands and arms to prevent an arrest, causing scrapes and bruises to the officer — an accusation Penna denies.

"I did not touch Pete Wilson, or any officer, and the video footage and evidence shows that," Penna said Thursday in an email to The Associated Press. "I urged and yelled at Pete Wilson to get off a young Black woman's head. That was it. Someone may have scratched him, but it wasn't me. I did not hurt Pete Wilson, not to mention the comparison to protesters literally being thrown to the ground, pepper sprayed, and the like."

Des Moines attorney Mark Hedberg, who represents Wilson and George, did not return repeated phone messages left by the AP seeking comment.

Other defendants named in the lawsuit either could not be reached for comment or did not return messages seeking comment. That includes Sheumaker, who pleaded guilty in 2021 to a reduced misdemeanor count of assault on a police officer and was sentenced to two years' probation. □



Former President Donald Trump speaks at the Road to Majority conference June 17, 2022, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court on Friday narrowed the range of documents House Democrats are entitled to in their years-long investigation of Donald Trump's finances.

The decision from the federal appeals court in Washington almost certainly won't be the last word in the legal fight that began in 2019, when Trump was president and Democrats

Appeals court: Congress can see some Trump financial records

newly in charge of the House of Representatives subpoenaed a wealth of records from Trump's accounting firm, Mazars USA. A federal judge in Washington already had ruled that lawmakers were entitled to review a more limited set of records than they initially wanted.

The appellate panel narrowed the request even more. It held that the House Committee on Oversight and Reform should be given records of financial ties between foreign countries and Trump or any of his businesses for 2017-18. It also ordered Mazars

to turn over documents between November 2016 and 2018 relating to the Trump company that held the lease granted by the federal government for the former Trump International Hotel located between the White House and the Capitol. "We determine here that the Committee has shown the requisite need for some, but far from all, of the presidential information covered by its subpoena," Judge Sri Srinivasan wrote in an opinion joined by Judge Judith Rogers. The third judge who heard arguments in the case is Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson,

who dropped out of the case when President Joe Biden nominated her to the Supreme Court.

The committee first issued a subpoena in 2019, then renewed it in 2021.

Lower courts had first ruled broadly in favor of the committee, but the Supreme Court in 2020 ordered a new analysis.

In issuing its ruling Friday, the court raised the point of Trump's right to continue fighting the subpoena, noting that the question remained of whether Trump maintains executive privilege as a former president. □

Japan's tight gun laws add to shock over Abe's assassination

By YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in broad daylight Friday shocked a world that has come to associate Japan with relatively low crime and strict gun control.

Japan's longest-serving prime minister, Abe was shot in the back while campaigning in the city of Nara for parliamentary candidates. He died at a hospital, two days before the election.

The suspect apparently circumvented the nation's ultra-tight gun regulations by building his own weapon. Police said the 15-inch (40-centimeter) device was obviously homemade, and one expert compared it to a muzzle-loading gun. Authorities confiscated similar weapons when they raided the suspect's nearby one-room apartment.

The motive of the man, who was taken into custody at the scene, remained unclear.

Fatal gun violence is virtually unheard of in Japan, and most Japanese go through life without ever handling, or even seeing, a real gun. Stabbings are more common in killings.

Major universities have rifle



Tetsuya Yamagami, center, holding a weapon, is detained near the site of gunshots in Nara, western Japan Friday, July 8, 2022.

Associated Press

clubs, and Japanese police are armed, but gun ownership rights have been a distant issue for decades. Even police rarely resort to firing their pistols.

With a population of 125 million, the country had just 10 gun-related criminal cases last year, resulting in a single death and four injuries, according to police. Eight of those cases were

gang-related.

The densely populated capital of Tokyo had zero gun incidents, injuries or deaths during that same year, although 61 guns were seized there.

"Japanese people are in a state of shock," said Shiro Kawamoto, professor at the College of Risk Management at Nihon University in Tokyo.

"This serves as a wake-up call that gun violence can happen in Japan, and security to protect Japanese politicians must be re-examined," Kawamoto said. "To assume this kind of attack will never happen would be a big mistake." Abe's security team may face serious questions. But because such attacks are extraordinary in Japan,

relatively light security is the norm, even for former prime ministers.

The last high-profile shooting occurred in 2019, when a former gang member was shot at a karaoke venue in Tokyo.

Under Japanese law, possession of firearms is illegal without a special license. Importing them is also illegal. The same rules apply to some kinds of knives and certain other weapons, like crossbows.

People who wish to own firearms must go through a stringent background check, including clearance by a doctor, and declare information about family members. They must also pass tests to show they know how to use guns correctly. Those who pass and purchase a weapon must also buy a special locking system for it at the same time.

Passing those hurdles will allow a license holder to shoot at clay targets. Hunting requires an additional license.

The weapon used in the attack on Abe was probably a "craft-made" firearm, according to N.R. Jenzen-Jones, the director of Armament Research Services, a specialist arms investigations firm. □

EU, Morocco renew migration deal after Spanish border deaths

By RENATA BRITO and TARIK EL-BARAKAH

Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — The European Commission vowed Friday to step up its work with Morocco to fight human smugglers who are using "new, extremely violent methods" — a move that comes two weeks after 23 people died at the border between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Melilla. EU Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson and Spanish Interior Minister Fernando Grande-Marlaska met with Morocco's Interior Minister Abdelouafi Laftit in Rabat to discuss the events of June 24, when hundreds of

sub-Saharan migrants and asylum-seekers attempted to storm through a border post and scale a border fence into Melilla. In addition to the deaths, some 200 Moroccan and Spanish law enforcement officers and more than 70 civilians were injured.

"We have discussed how we can further cooperate on fighting the smugglers, preventing such violent and dangerous situation as we saw two weeks ago," Johansson said in a video message after the meeting. There were no further details on what exactly the new, violent methods being used by smugglers were but the European Commis-

sion said it would enhance police cooperation with Morocco, including with joint investigations.

Mustafa Baitas, a spokesman for the Moroccan government, said Thursday the events at the Nador-Melilla border were "planned and orchestrated" in a way that was not typical of other attempts to storm the border into Spain.

At the time, Moroccan authorities said the migrants had died as a result of a stampede. But several human rights organizations have called for an independent investigation into the deaths and condemned authorities on both sides of the border for excessive



Riot police officers cordon off the area after migrants arrive on Spanish soil and crossing the fences separating the Spanish enclave of Melilla from Morocco in Melilla, Spain, Friday, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

use of force. Morocco's Human Rights Association says 27 migrants died, four more than Moroccan authorities have reported. Many of the victims were believed to be Sudanese, it tweeted.

"The Commissioner and the two ministers welcomed

the fact-finding commission set up by the Moroccan National Human Rights Council," the EU Commission statement said. Spanish prosecutors also announced last week they had launched an investigation into June 24. □

China demands end to U.S.-Taiwan military 'collusion'

BEIJING (AP) — China has demanded the U.S. cease military "collusion" with Taiwan during a virtual meeting between the joint chiefs of staff from the two countries whose relationship has grown increasingly fractious.

Gen. Li Zuocheng told Gen. Mark Milley on Thursday that China had "no room for compromise" on issues affecting its "core interests," which include self-governing Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

"China demands the U.S. ... cease reversing history, cease U.S.-Taiwan military collusion and avoid impacting China-U.S. ties and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Li said.

The Chinese military would "resolutely safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said. "If anyone creates a wanton provocation, they will be met with the firm counter-attack from the Chinese people."

Such language is fairly routine and Li was also quoted in a Defense Ministry news release saying China hoped to "further strengthen dialogue, handle risks, and promote cooperation, rather than deliberately creating confrontation,



China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Gen. Li Zuocheng, center, speaks during a meeting with U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, not shown, at the Bayi Building in Beijing on Aug. 16, 2016.

Associated Press

provoking incidents and becoming mutually exclusive."

China routinely flies warplanes near Taiwan to advertise its threat to attack, and the island's Defense Ministry said Chinese air force aircraft crossed the middle line of the Taiwan Strait dividing the two sides on Friday morning. It said measures were taken in response, including the scrambling of Taiwanese jets. Such "provocative behavior ... has seriously dam-

aged regional peace and stability," the ministry said.

Asked about the incident, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said, "This exercise by China is directed at external interference and separatist Taiwan independence forces."

The meeting between Li and Milley followed fiery comments by Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe at a regional security conference last month that was also attended by U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd

Austin.

Wei accused the United States of trying to "hijack" the support of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to turn them against Beijing, saying Washington is seeking to advance its own interests "under the guise of multilateralism."

And in May, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called China the "most serious long-term challenge to the international order" for the United States, with its claims to Taiwan and efforts

to dominate the strategic South China Sea, prompting an angry response from Beijing.

The U.S. and its allies have responded with what they term "freedom of navigation" patrols in the South China Sea, prompting angry responses from Beijing. Despite not having formal diplomatic relations in deference to Beijing, Washington remains Taiwan's chief ally and supplier of defense weapons. U.S. law requires the government to treat all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern," although it remains ambiguous on whether the U.S. military would defend Taiwan if it were attacked by China.

The latest round of heated rhetoric comes ahead of a meeting between Blinken and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, on Saturday at a gathering of foreign ministers from the G-20 bloc of industrialized nations in Indonesia that is expected to be overshadowed by disagreements over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. China has refused to criticize Moscow's aggression or even term it an invasion, while condemning Western sanctions against Russia and accusing the U.S. and NATO of provoking the conflict. □



Demonstrators hold signs that read in Spanish "Children are not an experiment," right, and "For the truth and justice, thank you Doctors Dentone and Recarey," outside the Supreme court during a hearing where the government and Pfizer are to give more detailed information on COVID-19 vaccines for children, which was requested by a national, administrative court, in Montevideo, Uruguay, Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

Associated Press

By **GUILLERMO GARAT**
Associated Press
MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay

(AP) — Uruguay stopped administering coronavirus vaccine to children un-

Uruguay suspends COVID vaccination for children under 13

der age 13 after a judge ordered on Thursday that all inoculations in that age group halt until officials present documents relating to contracts signed with vaccine manufacturers.

Judge Alejandro Recarey issued the injunction under a petition filed by a lawyer who represents a group of anti-vaccine activists.

The vaccinations in children under 13 had been on a voluntary basis, and the government said it will appeal the decision.

Alvaro Delgado, the secretary of the presidency, characterized the halt as a threat to public health. "We're convinced that it's

crazy to suspend voluntary vaccination because it has a strong scientific backing," Delgado said at a news conference.

Vaccinations for those older than 13 will continue, the Health Ministry said in a news release. The lawyer who sought the injunction, Maximiliano Dentone, represents anti-vaccine activists who have demanded that contracts with vaccine manufacturers be made public. The judge ordered the vaccination after receiving on Thursday answers to 18 questions about the safety and chemical composition of the vaccines that was signed by

Health Minister Daniel Salinas. Salinas published an open letter after the ruling strongly defending the government's vaccination plan and criticizing the judge for questioning the safety of vaccines.

"Many Uruguayans under 13 have been able to receive the necessary doses, but others have not," Salinas wrote.

Dentone said the government had failed to present the contracts with pharmaceutical giant Pfizer that he had requested.

The government has said a confidentiality clause in the contract prevents it from sharing the document. □

After 10 years, Aruba wins medals in taekwondo competition Panamericano Cadet

Recently Aruba's name was heard loudly in Costa Rica, during the taekwondo competition Panamericano Cadet, where two athletes won a bronze medal after ten years without managing this feat in a Panamericano Cadet competition. Our reporter had a chat with coach Monica Pimentel from Impact Taekwondo Aruba, who coached the athletes representing Aruba in Costa Rica. She told us how the competition went, how the preparation went, and what are the next steps for our athletes.



Pimentel says that the competition in Costa Rica went really well, with athletes Kiana Krosendijk and Anabella Fernandes representing Aruba in the category of 12 to 14 years.

In this category, Fernandes won a bronze medal in the category of 55 kilo. "It's great for Aruba because the last time we won a Panamerican medal in Cadet, it was I think about ten years ago", Pimentel mentioned.

She commented that this was an unexpected surprise, albeit a nice one, seeing how recently Aruba just came out of the Covid Pandemic, and for the kids to go compete in a competition of this magnitude, they weren't expecting to come home with any medals, because it was also the first time that the kids were competing in such a big event. "For us, it's a great achievement and also a beautiful surprise."

Aside from Fernandes' bronze medal in the category 12-14 years, 55 kilo,

both athletes managed to snag a bronze medal in the competition 'open tournament', which is a ranked tournament, in the category of 59 kilo.

Regarding the athletes preparation, Pimentel explains that seeing how the kids aren't that young anymore and are in an older age category, the hours of training increased and this included that they had to train twice a day, once in the morning before going to school, and once after school, some days.

"This was a change for them, but even so, it's time when you become older that your amount of training becomes more. The preparation was more intense than what they were used to, but I'm glad they took this challenge and together with their parents we went for it. If they have to get up early, the coaches and parents also have to wake up early every day. It's everyone's sacrifice", Pimentel added.



Already it was announced that the next Panamerican championship will take place next year in February, in Las Vegas. Pimentel highlights that they're hoping to be able to win another medal or come with a better result next year.

Preparation for next year started early as well. Pimentel commented that they've planned, taking advantage of the summer vacation, to take the kids to a training camp in Mexico and see if they can partake in another preparatory competition before the championship itself. Regarding the difference be-

tween attending a training camp abroad or having complete preparation in Aruba, Pimentel explained that in Aruba there isn't a lot of 'fogueo' (friendly matches), something that is not only for taekwondo but other sports as well. Lack of fogueo means there isn't a lot of competition for the kids to fight each other in practice, and this is why the part of training abroad is very important in the kids' preparation. "This way they get the opportunity to practice with other people and gain confidence. I think it's better if the kids have more fogueo", Pimentel finalized. □

Economic Recovery Commission held its second session

Oranjestad – Yesterday the second session of the Economic Recovery Commission took place. The commission was established by minister of Economic Affairs, Geoffrey Wever, and is working together to formulate fiscal and economic incentives with the idea to stimulate investment and Aruba's economy.

Business climate, legislative ease, and fiscal rewards for certain investments and the necessary condition remain central in the discussion. From the government of Aruba, this can serve as a tool to stimulate the necessary investments which could benefit the community and create added value to the country.

According to a press release, it was a very good session during which they started giving structure to the goals they want to achieve, and the necessary incentives to achieve them. "We are happy with the direction which the meeting is taking, today there were very good ideas presented, and here you see that Aruba's business sector is creative, has a lot of knowledge and wants to contribute", Minister Wever mentioned.

The commission will continue collaborating in the following days. A final report can be expected to be presented in a few weeks to the Government of Aru-



ba. Wever feels very positive regarding the good recommendations on the

table, and with the implementation of these, it will contribute to Aruba's resili-

ence and determination to develop a modern and lasting economy. □

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Presentation of Leerorkest at Laura Wernet Paskel School

Oranjestad - On July 6, 2022, the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes, paid a visit to the Laura Wernet Paskel school for a presentation of the "Leerorkest".

This project is an initiative of the Ministries of Education, Social Affairs, and Justice of Aruba and the Netherlands.



Leerorkest introduced the young pupils of the 2, 3, 4, and 5 grades to instruments they are not familiar with at these young ages. It is remarkable to state that these children are very passionate about music. "I am sure that with this, we are planting a seed in every child for music to become part of their lives. Maybe on a professional level or to relax and enjoy," the Prime

Minister said.

The principal of the Laura Wernet Paskel school Mrs. Bernadetta Figueroa-Geerman, was happy with the presentation of the "Leerorkest". She mentioned that the grade 2 pupils received a general music education, the grade 3 pupils were able to select their instrument of choice and received classes for one year from various music teachers.

During the presentation, they showed everyone what they learned in one year. "I have to say that I

am very proud of these children and am very grateful to have such a great project available for our schools, where the leerorkest helps us reach our goals of forming citizens with love and passion for music," teacher Etta said.

The Prime Minister thanked teacher Etta and pupils of the Laura Wernet Paskel School and the leerorkest for this great project of instilling love and passion for music in our children. The Prime Minister also congratulated them on the successful project. □



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How it all began

It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11,000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandize, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical 739 [PAbusiness. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became

too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallegostraat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson family moved into their brand new and huge building. Ponson's General Store now had an electrical department, as housewares department, a paint department and a hardware department.

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mother's vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Cen-



ter in Aruba, with more than 50,000 top of the line items for interior as well as exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do it Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly known products and brands are here for you to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries offers you great discount on selected items. Weekly specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

Need a home makeover? Do

not skip the furniture department "Leenbakker". Here, you will find a divine collection of European furniture, worldwide known for their modern and stylish features for your bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. For your garden they have a wide selection of durable furniture specially made for our tropical climate. Take a walk around and find some treasures. Find the perfect accessory for your house, fitted for your personality and style. Modern, elegant, retro industrial, whatever your style is you will definitely find something for your personal taste.

Feeling hungry? Take a break and relax at the 'Deli'. Savor a delicious lunch or a sandwich with a cup of coffee or perhaps a wrap. If you are a sweet tooth you will not be able to just skip the great variety of desserts they have. So tempting!

Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to www.doit.aw. □



Happy Island miracles in pictures & words

Books, they can shake your world upside down. A good book is changing your mood like that perfect vacation spot that energizes your spirit. Take these two together and what you get is a vacation book, a memory of that wonderful, heavenly place where you spent your valuable leisure time. Aruba Today dived into a local book store and wondered which Aruba books thrill the visitor's mind. Sylvia Wouters, store manager at Bruna Book Store, gladly helped us out and informed us about a small selection of Happy Island miracles in pictures and words.



Aruba Point to Point by Federico Cabello

"Beautiful pictures of Aruba, this is a perfect coffee table book to dream away with", explains Sylvia. The book has 192 full color pages and more than 400 photos in a landscape format of 9.1 x 6.6 x 1.1 inches. In the words of the author: "Slipping beyond a dynamic tourist industry to discover its wild and undeveloped beauty. Starting at the extreme north of the island, at California Lighthouse, I travel south along pristine beaches of white sand and calm, translucent seas, passing hotels, sailboats and shipwrecks as I go. At the southern tip, it is hard not to wish that the island would never end. Then back up the rocky East coast, where time and the eternal embrace of the waves have opened secret bays and stunning beaches in the shelter of rock walls. From beach to beach, point to point, cave to cliff to boat to bird, Aruba truly is... One Happy Island."

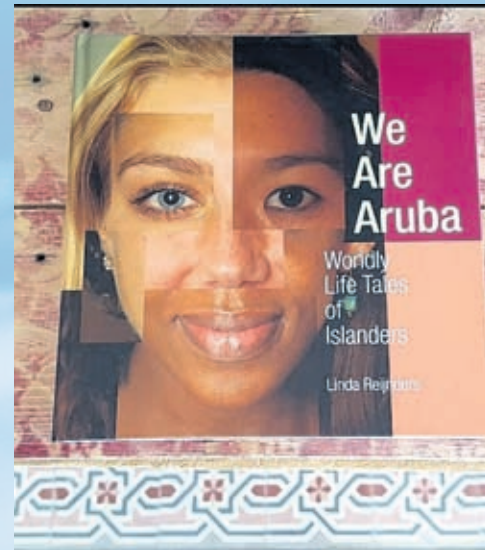


Bird Wildlife of Aruba Hardcover by Greg Peterson

Popular book that gives an overview of Aruba's birds together with descriptions. The book contains full page photographs of over two hundred species of birds taken in Aruba's wildlife. A checklist, for scientific and educational purposes, is at the end of the book containing the names of all bird species that can be found in Aruba. Where possible, the status (resident, migrant, vagrant, introduced) and abundance (common, fairly common, uncommon, scarce, and rare) of the particular bird species will be added to the checklist.

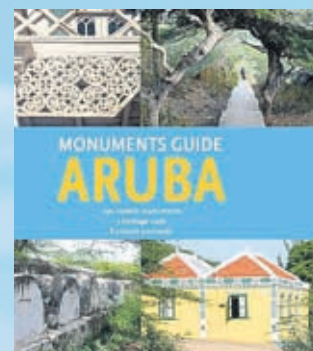
Island Life, Aruba's Best-Kept Diary by Rona Coster

The book is a selection of columns written by Rona Coster between 1992 and 2004. The column appeared for the first time under the title Island Life in 1992 in The News, a local English-language newspaper. The Island Life columns were very factual and had a very strong educational undertone. Marking its 25th anniversary the column has become part of Aruba's history and collective memory. "For those who were part of history to remember those days and for the next generations and Aruba's visitors to learn about our islands valuable traditions, movements and contributors", quoted by Karin Swiers, the book's editor and publisher, at Visitaruba.com.



We Are Aruba by Linda Reijnders

Worldly life tales of islanders that come from 76 different countries. This is a book that tells the stories of immigrants who make up for the multicultural society that Aruba is. A world within an island, a cocktail of people. The book is visibly enriched with a picture of each interviewed immigrant and an image of her/his country as well as a map with the country's location. In the back you will find a list with all nationalities living in the island and their numbers.



Aruba Monuments Guide by Michel Bakker and Olga van der Klooster

Aruba! Everyone knows this tropical island in the sun with pearly white beaches and palm trees swaying in the trade winds. But there's more to Aruba than this. It has a fascinating history, a diverse culture and a rich architecture. Traces can still be found of the original indigenous inhabitants, and of the gold industry and aloe plantations. The island's architectural heritage includes historic churches, a fort and a lighthouse. And you will come across the island's characteristic cunucu houses wherever you go. This guide will lead you through this wonderful cultural heritage along three routes: one driving route around the entire island, and two walking routes in the cities of Oranjestad and San Nicolas. You will discover places known only to insiders. And of course this guide also provides historical backgrounds and practical information.



Modern Caribbean Flavors by Helmi Smeulders

This is the book about the contemporary Caribbean kitchen with healthy recipes made with fresh and local ingredients. With recipes for Tropical Quinoa Salad with Mango & Pomegranate Seeds, Sweet Potato Salad, Goat Merguez, Watermelon Sangria or Plantain Soup, the Caribbean vibe enters your kitchen, and you feel for a bit you are back in the tropics again....

Extraordinary mosaic artist, Omaira Silva, wants to see durable art in Aruba

Many people sat to admire her while she was working on a bench, decorated with images of flora and fauna by Costa Linda, as part of Linear Park. And for Omaira Silva, this bench is just another step for Aruba to become 'one mosaic island'.

Omaira Silva is total personality: A person full of energy and always ready to motivate others to get involved with Aruba. As a member of Women's Club of Aruba, Silva is present and directs activities in the interest of the community. And these activities must always have a lot of emotion and color, because Omaira is a person full of emotion and color and she wants to share this special energy and vibes with Aruba.

It was in 1996 when Omaira Silva went to live in the Netherlands, that she decided to take the art of mosaic seriously. She came in contact with a group who would make art out of broken tiles, and there was no way to stop Omaira. "From the first moment when I broke my first tile, I felt powerful", Silva says. She had a lot of yellow tiles to work with, and she created a sort of sunflower on wood. "It was something small, but I liked it a lot and I wanted to continue with this form of art."

But it was in 2000, when Omaira moved to Mallorca to be with her offspring who was doing an internship at a hotel, that she really fell in love with mosaic; particularly after doing a course, and 'I felt that this is really my thing'.

In 2004 Omaira came back to Aruba, went to live in Savaneta, and that's how her mosaic Art Studio was born. First thing she did when going home was to go find tiles, because she was determined to develop her art. First the creations were for her own collection, and then she realized they were the ideal gift. Her first mosaic art

as a gift was for her friend, Minouche Hamers, and was a mirror with a mosaic frame. "I'm sure she has it still."

Aruba Art Fair and Isidora

But the whole of Aruba came to know Omaira the artist in 2016, with Aruba Art Fair. Initially, Silva met with a whole group to hear the idea from Tito Bolivar, the mind behind the art event for San Nicolas. Bolivar knew the artist Isidora Paz Lopez, from Chile, 'who was also my idol'. The intention was for Omaira to also participate in the Art Fair, but she didn't hear anything more about the project.

Meanwhile, Isidora did come Aruba, invited by Enrita Werleman, another mosaic artist. Lopez Paz came with her design, but also under the impression that there would be a big team to help her with her work in Aruba. "Isidora is an artist who experiences 'breakdowns'. Right now she is going through such a moment", Omaira told us last year. And in June 2016, in Aruba, Isidora needed help with her creation 'Carnival Nymph', after she started working on her project at her hotel in Aruba.

"Mervine Kock told Tito Bolivar that I would be able to help her finish with the project." Bolivar called Silva, and by the next day the artist went to meet her idol. The connection was instant, and that same night, Omaira went to pick up her own materials, from light to even a broom, because she knew what is involved in such a project. They worked during four days, including at night, on the piece, and by the end of the fourth day they went to install the piece in San Nicolas. "We succeeded", Silva says. But the final touch to the design came in October, a couple of months later, when the artist came back to add the final details to the piece which to this day receives a lot of attention.

The collaboration between Isidora and Omaira led to a friendship and another collaboration, but this time in Pirmasens, Germany, where the Chilean artist was invited to create the biggest mosaic mural in Rhineland. And Omaira was part of that piece, which received a lot of attention in international press. "It was right before the pandemic", Silva remembers. It was even in December 2019, when the world was watching closely for a virus from Wuhan, China.

The project in Germany was followed by a piece which Omaira did herself, invited by Tito Bolivar, which was the angel wings in San Nicolas. Wings made from seashells which is one of the most eye-catching art pieces from the Aruba Art Fair.

"I was going to the beach every day to collect the seashells to make the wings", Omaira remembers. She received help from American artists Kim Wozniak and Laura Rendlen, who accepted the invitation to help with the project. "That's how you see how artists collaborate with each other."

But Omaira's work is all over Aruba. Mosaik Art



Studio has produced a huge amount of art, from the streets of San Nicolas all the way to Paseo Herencia. But her focus remained on the project of social benches. "When I was living in the Netherlands, they started with the project to put benches like this in every province in the Netherlands. When I went to Germany, I went to see the benches." The project Ban Mosaik, together with Tito Bolivar, was however limited because of the pandemic.

But Mota Engil, in charge of the Watty Vos Boulevard, approached Omaira Silva to create a mosaic social sofa in Eagle Beach. And the project of benches decorated with Aruba's flora and fauna became a reality, and introduced Omaira to various users of Eagle Beach who came to see the work, and tourists who kept coming to Aruba despite the pandemic.

Today, that bench is testimony to the dedication of an artist who believes that mosaic can bring a lot more color to Aruba. However pretty all the paintings in San Nicolas may be, the intense sun of Aruba affects the paint; but mosaic remains firm and colorful.

Omaira Silva's vision is to put more mosaic social benches in Playa, but to create a different type of installation with mosaic, with typical designs of Aruba, to place around the island. The artist visualizes even mosaic totems with the designs that the first Arubans left behind, designs unique to Aruba, made by hands which are still strong enough to break tiles, to bring more color to Aruba. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

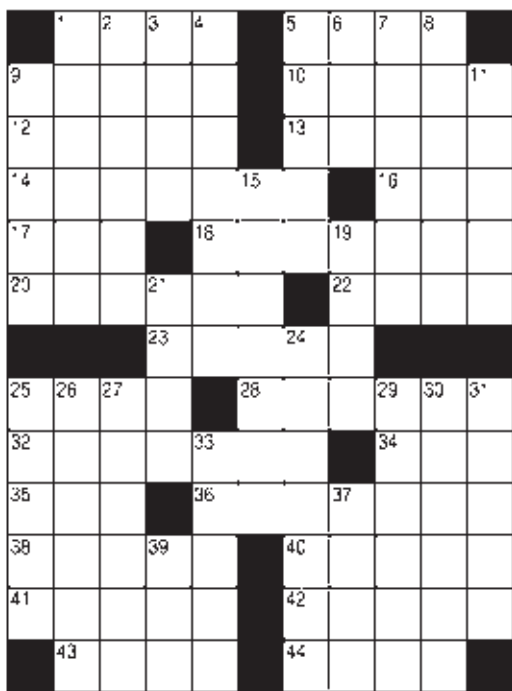
- ACROSS**
- 41 Like dunces
 - 1 Composer: Bartók
 - 5 Beach crawler
 - 9 Travel guide creator: Eugene
 - 10 Lenders' take-backs
 - 12 "Bye!" in Baja
 - 13 Last letter
 - 14 Lab workers
 - 16 Spring month
 - 17 Previously
 - 18 Birds, at times
 - 20 Verandas
 - 22 Savvy about
 - 23 — voce
 - 25 Has a mortgage
 - 28 Power problem
 - 32 Bugs
 - 34 Kilmer of "The Doors"
 - 35 Phone bug
 - 36 Funny fellows
 - 38 Steaming
 - 40 Hamilton of "The Terminator"

DOWN

- 1 Urban grocery
- 2 Menlo Park
- 3 Pillage
- 4 Hall of fame
- 5 Traverse
- 6 "Stand" band
- 7 Early hominids
- 8 "Key Largo" star
- 9 Deadly
- 11 Authority
- 15 Do museum work
- 19 Horn sound
- 21 Helper: Abbr.
- 24 Vigorous fights
- 25 Eye-related
- 26 Begin to annoy
- 27 Site of Sevilla
- 29 Pay back
- 30 Vegetable source
- 31 Lanches-ter and Maxwell
- 33 VCR button
- 37 Shore eroder
- 39 "My country — of thee"



Yesterday's answer



7-9

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-9

CRYPTOQUOTE

Y NDHBR DF DR HQB YRDGYI

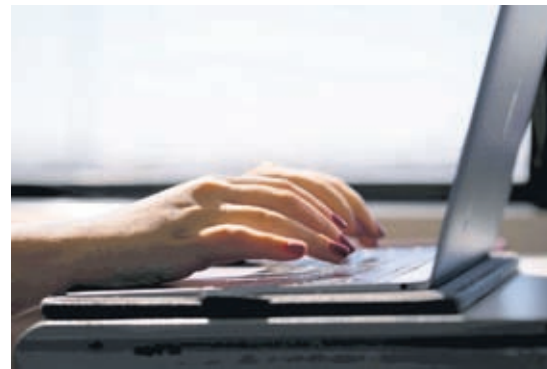
MTJIK MQYH Y JTFBVPK DF

DR HQB LYJKBR. — JTVBJH

FTPHQBS

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OHANA MEANS FAMILY, AND FAMILY MEANS NO ONE GETS LEFT BEHIND. — "LILO & STITCH"

Are 4-day workweeks, flexible hours the future of full-time?



This May 18, 2021, photo shows a woman typing on a laptop on a train in New Jersey.

Associated Press

By HAL M. BUNDRICK of NerdWallet

A four-day workweek sounds appealing to workers. Possibly alarming to employers. A bill introduced in the California legislature earlier this year proposed a regular pay rate for 32 hours of work per week, with overtime kicking in after that. The measure stalled in committee for a lack of broad support but could resurface in 2023.

Meanwhile, 4 Day Week Global, a non-profit foundation associated with Oxford University, is piloting a six-month trial of a four-day workweek "with no loss of pay for employees." More than three dozen companies in the U.S. and Canada are participating in the experiment, with a total of 150 organizations and 7,000 employees involved worldwide.

Of more than 1,000 U.S. adult employees surveyed by research firm Qualtrics in January, 92% said they would support their employer going to a four-day workweek; 79% of them said it would help mental health, and 82% said it would make them more productive.

Will more employers embrace the change?

THE CHANGE CAN BE CHALLENGING

"I've always been curious about burnout. It truly affects those that should be thriving," says Lisa Belanger, CEO of Conscious-Works in Canmore, Alberta. She consults with businesses on workplace well-being. In her quest to find "how work is meant to be," she decided to explore a four-day workweek herself.

Results have been mixed, at best, she says. "I think I've failed so far in my own personal experiment," Belanger says. Business travel plans or other work-related responsibilities often interrupted her Day Five off.

"One of the reasons it's so challenging for me, and most people, to do a four-day workweek is other people are working on that fifth day, so you're getting email and you're getting pulled in," Belanger says.

ALTERING CONSUMER BEHAVIOR AND EXPECTATIONS

"People are realizing that while this might be an intriguing or interesting idea, there's probably some trade-offs," says Benjamin Granger, head of employee experience advisory services at Qualtrics. He says the company's research indicates concerns regarding customer frustration if staffing changes have an impact on response

time.

Widespread adoption would have to reach critical mass, where companies believe they have to adopt a shorter workweek to compete in the workforce, he adds. And consumer behavior and customer expectations and services would need to be reshaped.

"We're not even close to that yet," he says. If it's not a four-day workweek, there are other levers to pull when it comes to workplace flexibility, Granger says.

Those could include perks that make a job more attractive, like choosing the hours you want to work rather than the usual 9-to-5, or the ability to run errands during the workday.

FEW EMPLOYEES WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE A PAY CUT

Less than 4 in 10 (37%) of the employees surveyed by Qualtrics would be willing to take a 5% or more pay cut for a four-day workweek. But nearly three-quarters (72%) of those surveyed said a four-day workweek would mean they would have to work longer days.

However, 10-hour days often aren't child care friendly. And if a company offers to pay for only four days of eight hours each, it could indicate a shorter workweek might be the result of a company trying to reduce expenses.

CONSIDERING THE TRADE-OFFS

"I think there is a lot of work and research that an organization has to do before it pulls the trigger on this," Granger says.

A four-day workweek — or other workplace flexibility — might begin with a series of discussions. If there is interest on both sides of the payroll, Granger suggests a trade-off analysis: "Look statistically at the factors that people would be willing to trade off, and would it be worth it to them?" If interest remains strong, the organization could run a pilot program with a small group of employees before a wider rollout.

If a four-day workweek isn't in your near future, Belanger offers these ideas for employees to possibly seek — and employers to consider:

— Occasional extended weekends off. Belanger says this allows time away without the stressful "work is piling up while I'm away" feeling during longer vacations.

— A meeting-free Friday or a reduction in the number of meetings overall.

— Email, instant messaging or texting hiatuses. "Telepressure" — the compulsion to quickly respond to work-related messages of any kind — is a real thing, Belanger says. "You need a couple of hours every single day where you're wholly not working — 100% not working," for mental health, she adds. □

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Instagram and Facebook remove posts offering abortion pills



The drug misoprostol sits on a gynecological table at Casa Fusa, a health center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Friday, Jan. 22, 2021.

By **AMANDA SEITZ**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facebook and Instagram have begun promptly removing posts that offer abortion pills to women who may not be able to access them following a Supreme Court decision that stripped away constitutional protections for the procedure.

Such social media posts ostensibly aimed to help women living in states where preexisting laws banning abortion suddenly snapped into effect on Friday. That's when the high court overruled *Roe v. Wade*, its 1973 decision that declared access to abortion a constitutional right. Memes and status updates explaining how women could legally obtain abortion pills in the mail exploded across social platforms. Some even offered to mail the prescriptions to women living in states that now ban the procedure.

Almost immediately, Facebook and Instagram began removing some of these posts, just as millions across the U.S. were searching for clarity around abortion access. General

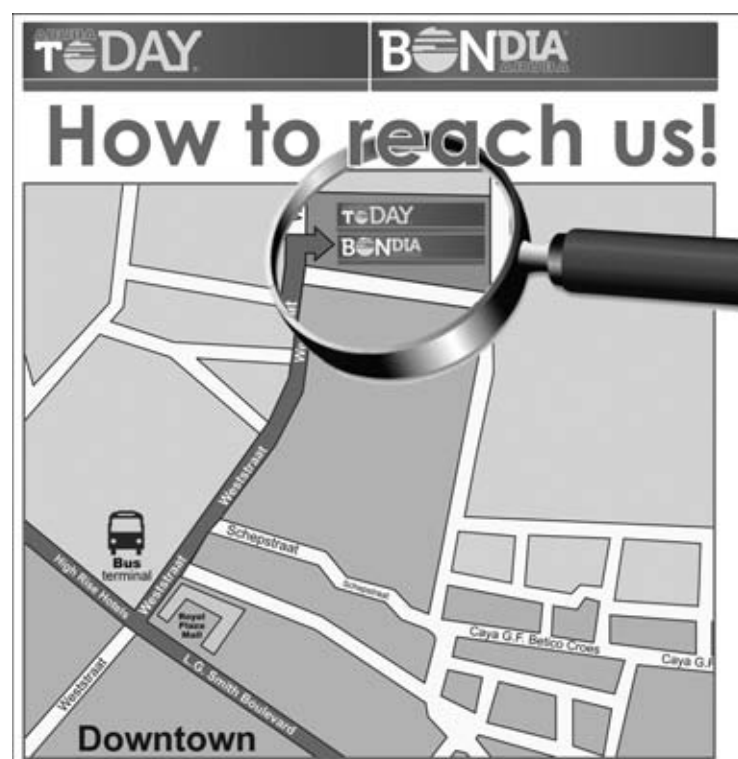
mentions of abortion pills, as well as posts mentioning specific versions such as mifepristone and misoprostol, suddenly spiked Friday morning across Twitter, Facebook, Reddit and TV broadcasts, according to an analysis by the media intelligence firm Signal Labs. By Sunday, Signal had counted more than 250,000 such mentions.

The AP obtained a screenshot on Friday of one Instagram post from a woman who offered to purchase

or forward abortion pills through the mail, minutes after the court ruled to overturn the constitutional right to an abortion. "DM me if you want to order abortion pills, but want them sent to my address instead of yours," the post on Instagram read.

Instagram took it down within moments. Vice Media first reported on Monday that Meta, the parent of both Facebook and Instagram, was taking down posts about abortion pills.

Associated Press



On Monday, an AP reporter tested how the company would respond to a similar post on Facebook, writing: "If you send me your address, I will mail you abortion pills." □

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'I can't be the only one': Docuseries on 'Women Who Rock'

By MARK KENNEDY

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As a percussion protégé growing up in the Bay Area, Sheila Escovedo would ask visiting bands if she could sit in. She was often told to beat it. "They're looking at me like, well, 'You're a girl. Go away.' They would push their hand like, 'Get out of here,'" Escovedo recalls. "I was told: 'You're a girl, you can't and you won't and you don't. And there's no way.'"

Escovedo, thankfully, found a way, becoming Sheila E., the Grammy-nominated, gold record-making drummer who collaborated with Prince, performed at the Academy Awards and supplied music for soundtracks, mammoth sporting events and world tours.

She and other women in rock have faced similar disbelief and hostility.

"I think that the common thread for women in general, and especially being in the music business is really staying true to who you are and allowing that to be OK," she said.

A deep dive into rock's female pioneers like Sheila E. forms the backbone of the fascinating, four-part docuseries "Women Who Rock" starting Sunday on Epix. Director Jessica Hopper says the series offers a look at far more than just rock stars.

"Just like you can't separate art from artists, you can't separate music from culture. If you tell these stories, you are telling this broader story of America," said Hopper.

The series features appearances by Nancy Wilson of Heart, Chaka Khan, Pat Benatar, Mavis Staples, Shania Twain, Macy Gray, Rickie Lee Jones, Norah Jones, Aimee Mann, Tori Amos, Kate Pierson of the B-52's, Tina Weymouth of Talking Heads, Nona Hendryx, Susanna Hoffs of the Bangles, Jody Watley, St. Vincent, Kathleen Hanna of Bikini Kill and Kim Gordon of Sonic Youth, among others.

"I loved hearing the other women talk about their experiences," Hendryx



Chaka Khan performs during rehearsals for the annual Fourth of July Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular in Boston on July 3, 2022.

Associated Press

told the AP in an interview. "There's just so many who are standing on the breasts — I was going to say shoulders — of many women who have come before them and fought battles that they didn't even know they were fighting."

The docuseries moves chronologically from the birth of rock 'n' roll, where women weren't taken seriously, to the present day, where they've seized both production credits and technology to blaze their own independent paths. It's been an uphill climb for most.

"In the business of entertainment, I think women have classically been relegated to being second-class citizens who don't have a whit of their own opinion about anything," Wilson says in an interview. "So they have to be shaped, informed and told how to look and how to behave and how to sound."

Heart — led by sisters Nancy and Ann — brushed off such behavior, leaning on their blood and their military background for strength, blazing a path in a male-dominate space

with songs like "Barracuda" and "Alone." Sheryl Crowe in the series says Wilson was a beacon of how to rock and maintain your femininity.

"We had this kind of almost a regimented concept that we could just do it. There would be no resistance," says Nancy Wilson, touring this summer as Nancy Wilson's Heart. "We were just able to do it. We were young enough and good enough already at a very young age not to be convinced that what we were was inappropriate."

It may come as no surprise that Staples kicks off the series. At the fulcrum of gospel, blues and R&B, she is the connection between Mahalia Jackson and Bob Dylan, Prince and Norah Jones. The fact that Staples was onboard helped convince others.

"There are few folks whose voices were so integral to sound-tracking change in America as Mavis. And so getting to start with Mavis really kind of set a bar for how we moved through the rest of the series," said Hopper.

The show highlights a

makeshift sisterhood of artists, with Mary Clayton mentored by Odetta, Hendryx mentored by Nina Simone, and Khan reaching back to Staples. "Each of these women really provides a rung for the women that we meet next," said Hopper, a music journalist before moving on to directing and producing documentary work.

The series explores the rise of men and women on-stage together in bands like The Pretenders, The B-52s, Talking Heads and Blondie, and the music industry's exploitation of Black artists, from gospel to disco. Audiences see how the MTV revolution in the 1980s prized image and the later arrivals of solo superstars Twain, Lady Gaga and Beyoncé.

In the second episode, which deals with the 1970s, stars like Joni Mitchell, Carole King and Stevie Nicks are described in the context of the Equal Rights Amendment and Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The episode explores the importance of the punk club CBGB and how Patti Smith seemed to announce a world beyond

gender, while Blondie's Debbie Harry added glamour to punk. "As far as I'm concerned, Debbie Harry invented cool," says St. Vincent in the series.

Joan Jett recalls begging her parents for a guitar and finally getting one at 13, spending the first days trying to bend the e-string over and over. She asked her dad to teach her rock 'n' roll, but he replied that girls don't do that. Instead, he tried to teach her "On Top of Old Smokey."

"I wanted to be holding a guitar and owning it the way the Rolling Stones do," Jett says in the series. Along the way, she kept thinking to herself: "I can't be the only one." She wasn't.

By 16, Jett was in the pioneering female band The Runaways. But the industry never made it easy, constantly putting up roadblocks and saying "You're not allowed." For Jett, "That killed me."

Wilson feels the progress that women made in the '70s stalled as MTV took hold and has only built back since the 1990s, pointing to such acts as Phoebe Bridgers, Wet Leg, Lucius, Sharon Van Etten and Angel Olsen — or, as she puts it, "girl players out there who are really taking no prisoners."

The sisterhood helped and so did the democracy of technology, allowing all artists the skills to engineer, produce and craft their music, bypassing the traditional gatekeepers. Another artist featured is Oakland singer-songwriter Star Nias, a trans musician who makes her living through Patreon, a crowdfunding platform.

Sheila E. is also trying to encourage the next generation of women musicians. She surfs the internet at least once a week, cheering young people and especially young girls.

"I send them a message on Instagram or Facebook and say, 'Hey, keep doing what you're doing. I'm a fan. You're amazing. Please tell your parents they're doing a great job,'" she said.



Spain's Rafael Nadal sports tape on his stomach following a medical timeout as he plays Taylor Fritz of the U.S. in a men's singles quarterfinal match on day ten of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

Associated Press

Analysis: Nadal leaves Wimbledon hurt, like Federer in 2021

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— It was impossible not to think ahead, to what awaits Rafael Nadal, while watching him sigh as he discussed how “very sad” he was about pulling out of the Wimbledon semifinals because of a torn abdominal muscle.

It was impossible not to think back to just a month ago, when Nadal at 36 became the oldest champion in French Open history, then expressed doubt about whether he would even show up at the All England Club because of chronic pain in his left foot that required nerve-numbing injections just so he could play in Paris.

And it was impossible not to think back, to a year ago at Centre Court, when Roger Federer exited after a loss in the Wimbledon quarterfinals, clearly compromised by a balky right knee that would soon require a third surgery in a span of about 18 months. Federer, who turns 41 in a month, has not played a match since.

These two exceptional athletes, forever linked as rivals and greats of the game, might be at different stages of nearing the ends of their careers, but one can't help but wonder whether Nadal's recent difficulty staying

healthy — he also missed time this season with a rib injury, and the second half of last season because of his foot — could affect how much he is willing to keep pushing his body.

At some point, both will be gone from the sport. As will, at some point, the other member of the so-called Big Three, Novak Djokovic, who reached his men's-record 32nd Grand Slam title match by beating Cam Norrie 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 on Friday in what became the lone men's semifinal.

“I don't think anyone's able to fill those shoes, to be honest with you,” said Nick Kyrgios, the player who benefited from Nadal's withdrawal and advanced to his first Grand Slam final. “We'll never see a competitor like Rafa again. You'll never see someone wield a racquet like Roger, so effortlessly. You'll never probably see anyone who just wins and just plays the game just so good as ... Djokovic.”

Nadal owns a men's-record 22 Grand Slam titles, two ahead of Djokovic, who is 35, and Federer.

“It's going to be a sad day,” Kyrgios said, “when they go.”

Nadal was asked whether he made the right choice by continuing to play against Taylor Fritz in the

quarterfinals Wednesday, hanging in there for five full sets across nearly 4 1/2 hours, despite feeling so much pain from early in the first set. He said a few noteworthy things in response.

He's sure it made sense to keep playing, because he could — actuality proves possibility, after all — and, of course, he won.

He's not someone who likes to quit playing once a match begins (he's done it three times in 351 Grand Slam contests, nine times in 1,275 over his full career). He's not someone who questions past choices, although he will try to learn from his mistakes.

Nadal hopes he can return to practicing groundstrokes in about a week; serving will need to wait, but he still posited that the abdominal problem might sideline him for only about a month. He thinks he can stick to a schedule that includes the U.S. Open, the year's last Grand Slam tournament, which starts on Aug. 29.

“As I always said, for me the most important thing is happiness, more than any title, even if everybody knows how much effort I put to be here,” Nadal said. “But I can't risk that match and stay two, three months outside of competition, because that's going to be a tough thing for me.” □



St. Louis Cardinals pinch hitter Albert Pujols drives in a run with a sacrifice fly in the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Thursday, July 7, 2022, in Atlanta. Associated Press

Pujols, Cabrera added to MLB All-Star rosters by Manfred

NEW YORK (AP) — Albert

Pujols and Miguel Cabrera were added to All-Star Game rosters on Friday by baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred under a provision in the sport's new labor agreement.

The All-Star selection is the 11th for the 42-year-old Pujols and the first since 2015. Cabrera, 39, was picked for the 12th time and the first since 2016.

Pujols returned to the St. Louis Cardinals in March, agreeing to a \$2.5 million, one-year contract with the team he started with. An NL MVP in 2005, 2008 and 2009, the Dominican star played for the Cardinals from 2001-11, then left for a \$240 million, 10-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels. He spent most of 2021 with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

He is a .296 career hitter and fifth with 683 home runs, trailing only Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755), Babe Ruth (714) and Alex Rodriguez (696). Pujols' 2,168 RBIs are third behind Aaron (2,297) and Ruth (2,214).

Pujols is hitting .200 with four homers and 18 RBIs in 125 at-bats this season. He said in March he intends to retire after this season.

Cabrera won the AL MVP in 2012 and 2013, and in 2012 led the AL with a .330 batting average, 44 homers and 139 RBIs to become MLB's first Triple Crown winner since Bos-

ton's Carl Yastrzemski in 1967.

A Venezuela native, Cabrera began his big league career with the Florida Marlins in 2003 and was traded to Detroit after the 2007 season with pitcher Dontrelle Willis for pitchers Andrew Miller, Dallas Trahern, Burke Badenhop and Frankie De La Cruz and outfielder Cameron Maybin.

Cabrera has a .310 career average with 505 homers and 1,835 RBIs. He is hitting .308 with three homers and 31 RBIs in 2022, the ninth season of a \$292 million, 10-year contract. New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge and Atlanta outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. were elected to start in the July 19 game at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, and remaining starters among position players were to be announced later Friday.

Pitchers and reserves will be announced Sunday.

Manfred has the right under the March 10 agreement that ended the lockout to “add one player that he selects to each league's roster, in recognition of each player's career achievements. If special circumstances warrant, the commissioner may select more than one player to each league's roster.”

Pujols and Cabrera are in addition to the 32-man limit on each All-Star roster. □

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